

REMARKS

This Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, is responsive to the final Office Action mailed April 10, 2006.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chew (6,636,383). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested, for the following reasons.

Each of the independent claims has been amended so as to positively recite a flex cable as a separate structure and claim element. Also, each of the pending independent claims has been amended so as to recite that the first actuator arm portion, the second actuator arm portion and the actuator arm joining portion are a single part made from the single flat sheet of material, rather than an assembly of sub-parts. Such recitations preclude any interpretation of the claims in which the interconnect section 98 of the flex cable 74 of the Chew reference could read on the claimed actuator arm-joining portion. Chew describes the interconnect 98 of the flex cable 74 as follows:

The flex cable 74 also includes an upper actuator arm section 102, which is interconnected with the lower actuator arm section 86 by an actuator arm interconnect section 98 of the flex cable 74.

Although the flex cable 74 has been described in relation to the above-noted individual sections, once again, the flex cable 74 is one-piece or a single, autonomous unit. That is, the flex cable 74 does not include any mechanical interconnection or joint between the electronics board interconnect section 78 and the lower actuator arm section 86, between the lower actuator arm section 86 and the actuator arm interconnect section 98, or between the actuator arm interconnect section 98 and the upper actuator arm section 102.

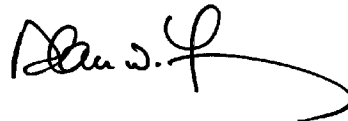
From the foregoing, it is clear that Chew's flex cable 74 (including the interconnect section 98 thereof) can rightly only read on the claimed flex cable, and not on the claimed actuator arm joining portion. Indeed, the actuator arm-joining portion is now claimed to be made from the same single flat sheet of material as are the first and second actuator arm portions of the

actuator arm assembly and is claimed as a separate element from the flex cable. For these reasons, it is believed that the claim amendments distinguish the claimed embodiments over the applied reference, clearly address the Examiner's arguments in the "Response to Arguments" section of the outstanding Final Office Action and place the claims in condition for allowance. In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 USC §102(e) rejection is untenable and should be withdrawn. The same, therefore, is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance. If any unresolved issues remain, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number indicated below and whatever is necessary to resolve such issues will be done at once.

No fees are believed to be due with this communication, however the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-1209.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: June 7, 2006

By: _____

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